

CJ churches, real estate office targets of heat pump thefts

By
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Four churches and the Century 21 real estate office have been targeted in a rash of heat pump thefts in Cave Junction over the past month.

First hit was the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. While unable to extract the pump, the crooks' illicit effort caused significant damage. A week later, the Valley Evangelical Free Church was successfully robbed, followed by the Community Bible Church and the real estate office.

"It's easy enough to offend God," said Cave Junction Contract Deputy Joel Heller, "but why go out of your way?"

These heat pumps, both a furnace and air conditioner in one unit, are accessible from outside of the buildings, where the thieves cut electrical wires and plumbing tubes.

"Intact units are traceable by their serial numbers, manufacture logo's and data plates," Heller said. "We have reason to believe they're taking the pumps to a remote location and probably stripping them down and then selling the aluminum and

copper. So, for about \$30 dollars they are leaving these churches with enormous repair bills that can run into the tens of thousands of dollars."

Heller wants anyone with information about these thefts to contact him through the Cave Junction Substation at 541-592 5161. He also asks that other organizations and businesses with heat pumps to train security camera's on these units to potentially obtain images of these criminals in action.

The Good Shepherd Church on East River Street was targeted twice. In February, something was thrown through a window, setting off an alarm and apparently scaring the criminals away. Then in mid-April, electrical lines to the church's heat pump were cut, copper tubing was punctured and all the refrigerant was drained out. While the would-be thieves were unable to remove the heat pump, they caused significant damages.

"Churches are vulnerable because there's nobody there at night a lot of the time," said Linda Butler, a treasurer at Good Shepherd Church. "Many churches are struggling anyway and for these criminals to cause this kind of damage is really sad and shows a complete lack of respect. What could happen is that insurance companies won't want to write policies for churches,

who pay a lot for insurance anyway."

"I'm putting a sign in the window that says: 'These premises are protected by an alarm system and God, and if law enforcement doesn't get you, God will,'" Butler said.

At the Community Bible Church on Caves Avenue, the thieves came in the night of April 22 and took two seven-ton capacity pumps.

"We don't have a bid yet, but this looks like it'll be around \$20,000 to repair," said Community Bible Church Pastor Dave Gordon. "It's expensive. It was kind of a shock. While our insurance company will cover most of these costs, there is a deductible we'll have to pay. We have no idea who is behind these thefts, but the Lord knows and that's all that really matters."

"What these thieves get out of the heat pump is so marginal, they'd be better off just working a regular job," Gordon said. "It comes down to a choice about how you want to live your life, whether you want to do good for people or bad. Eventually those that do wrong, if the police don't catch up with them, their conscience will. They're not doing anyone any good, and certainly not themselves. The real damage that's done is to their own heart and soul, not those they are stealing from."

Printmaking Workshop: Learn an Ancient Art

Using Modern Materials, Just in Time for Mother's Day Southern Oregon Guild artist, Brianna Kochick, will teach the ancient art of block printing at the Guild Gallery in Kerby, May 10 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm.

Printing blocks were originally made by carving into wood. The earliest surviving examples of woodblock printing on cloth date back to 220 in China, and the Japanese have long used the technique on paper as a major art form.

Brianna's students will carve designs into a piece of Soft-Kut, a friendly latex-free modern material that cuts like butter but prints like a linoleum or wood block. They will cut an image into a block and learn to print by making a personalized greeting card,

for Mother's Day if they wish. The carved block can be used over and over for making more cards and for other stamping projects. The technique has endless applications.

Brianna suggests bringing your own images for inspiration.

Class fee is \$25, which includes materials. Registration and payment by credit card through PayPal are available on line at <http://southernoregonguild.org> or at the Guild 541-592-5019. Students can pay by cash or check at the Guild, 24353 Redwood Highway in Kerby or via mail at P.O. Box 1596, Cave Junction, OR 97523. Please register by 3:00 p.m., Friday, May 9. Students who pre-register by phone may pay at the beginning of class.

From the desk of the Mayor: by Mayor Carl Jacobson

This is the time of the year to remind people to please cut down your weeds. Do not let them go to seed. This is a good town and I wish people would take more pride in where they live and work. There are a lot of good hard working men & women who volunteer their time and talent to the community.

It's also time to remove your studded tires. Please do so as they are very destructive to the roadways. Fire season is fast upon us. So please if you have a lit cig. or burning ashes, do not flip out the windows of your car, it can and will start a fire. That is the last thing we need here in the Valley is to have a fire.

We are coming along just fine with the skateboard park. Its starting to take shape, I can't believe the number of people that don't know anything about the skateboard park being built. This

month is going to be a busy one. We have Memorial Day coming up at the end of the month. So that means we will be having ceremonies at city hall, 10 a.m., memorial flag pole at 11 a.m., then its on to a service at Laurel Cemetery 11:20 a.m. and then Deercreek Cemetery at approximately 12 noon.

We honor those of our family, friends, neighbors, and associates. All veterans' graves will be marked with small flags. Also in Grants Pass May 23- 26 there will be 1,000 flags erected again so please take the time and go to Hillcrest Memorial Park in Grants Pass. The address is 945 NE Hillcrest. Thanks to the park, Evergreen Federal bank and host American Legion Post 70.

Home Country: by Slim Randles

"How about a television ad," Steve said during the manure-and-worm free lunch focus group, "that shows a cartoon of a worm with a happy smile on his face? You know, you can have him munching on manure, and then producing"

"Thanks so much, Steve," said Emily, very quickly, "but I don't think Dewey's budget will allow for animation."

"Or," said Anita Campbell, "you could show a delicious baked trout on a platter, and say 'The best baked fish starts with a small worm.'"

Mrs. Doc said, "Do you really want

people to think about dinner and worms at the same time?"

"Yeah," Anita said, "I see what you mean."

Doc slowly raised his hand.

"Doc?"

"I think everyone in town knows I'm a fly fisherman, but we're trying to sell worms here. Maybe an ad showing a happy boy carrying a cane pole and a can of worms, whistling and walking toward the local pond, and underneath it you could say something like, 'A boy, a summer's day, a can of worms: the building blocks

of America.'"

"Hey, that's kinda great!" Dewey said. "You equate worms with happiness, youth, and patriotism."

Doc smiled quietly but proudly. He thought he might consider branching off a bit into advertising. But then, who would give the flu shots?

Well, the lunch was good, anyway.

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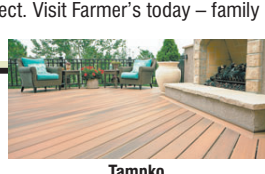
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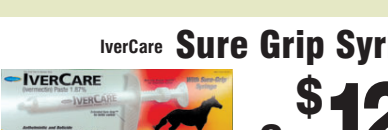
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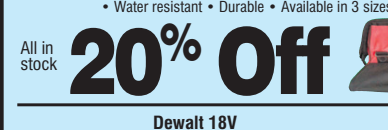


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